

[Roll No. 58]

AYES—239

Abraham Griffith Paulsen
Aderholt Grothman Pearce
Allen Guinta Perry
Amash Guthrie Pittenger
Amodel Hanna Pitts
Babin Hardy Poe (TX)
Barletta Harper Pompeo
Barr Harris Posey
Barton Hartzler Price (GA)
Benishek Heck (NV) Ratcliffe
Bilirakis Hensarling Reed
Bishop (MI) Herrera Beutler Reichert
Bishop (UT) Hice (GA) Renacci
Black Hill Ribble
Blackburn Holding Rice (SC)
Blum Hudson Rigell
Bost Huelskamp Roby
Boustany Huizenga (MI) Rogers (AL)
Brady (TX) Hultgren Rogers (KY)
Brat Hunter Rohrabacher
Bridenstine Hurd (TX) Rokita
Brooks (AL) Hurt (VA) Rooney (FL)
Brooks (IN) Issa Ros-Lehtinen
Buchanan Jenkins (KS) Roskam
Buck Jenkins (WV) Ross
Bucshon Johnson (OH) Rothfus
Burgess Johnson, Sam Rouzer
Byrne Jolly Royce
Calvert Jones Russell
Carter (GA) Jordan Ryan (WI)
Carter (TX) Joyce Salmon
Chabot Kelly (PA) Sanford
Chaffetz King (IA) Scalise
Clawson (FL) King (NY) Schock
Coffman Kinzinger (IL) Schweikert
Cole Kline Scott, Austin
Collins (GA) Knight Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY) Labrador Sessions
Comstock LaMalfa Shimkus
Conaway Lamborn Shuster
Cook Lance Simpson
Costello (PA) Latta Smith (MO)
Cramer LoBiondo Smith (NE)
Crawford Long Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw Loudermilk Smith (TX)
Culberson Love Stefanik
Curbelo (FL) Lucas Stewart
Davis, Rodney Luetkemeyer Stivers
Denham Lummis Stutzman
Dent MacArthur Thompson (PA)
DeSantis Marchant Thornberry
DesJarlais Marino Tiberi
Diaz-Balart Massie Tipton
Duffy McCarthy Trott
Duncan (SC) McCaul Turner
Duncan (TN) McClintock Upton
Ellmers McHenry Valadao
Emmer McKinley Wagner
Farenthold McMorris Walberg
Fincher Rodgers Walden
Fitzpatrick MeSally Walker
Fleischmann Meadows Walorski
Fleming Meehan Walters, Mimi
Flores Messer Weber (TX)
Forbes Mica Webster (FL)
Fortenberry Miller (FL) Wenstrup
Foss Miller (MI) Westerman
Franks (AZ) Moolenaar Westmoreland
Frelinghuysen Mooney (WV) Whitfield
Garrett Mullin Williams
Gibbs Mulvaney Wilson (SC)
Gibson Murphy (PA) Wittman
Gohmert Neugebauer Womack
Goodlatte Newhouse Woodall
Gosar Noem Yoder
Gowdy Nugent Yoho
Granger Nunes Young (IA)
Graves (GA) Olson Young (IN)
Graves (LA) Palazzo Zeldin
Graves (MO) Palmer Zinke

NOES—186

Adams Brownley (CA) Clay
Aguilar Bustos Cleaver
Ashford Butterfield Clyburn
Bass Capps Cohen
Beatty Capuano Connolly
Becerra Cárdenas Conyers
Bera Carney Cooper
Beyer Carson (IN) Costa
Bishop (GA) Cartwright Courtney
Blumenauer Castor (FL) Crowley
Bonamici Castro (TX) Cuellar
Boyle (PA) Cicilline Cummings
Brady (PA) Clark (MA) Davis (CA)
Brown (FL) Clarke (NY) Davis, Danny

DeFazio Kind
DeGette Kirkpatrick
Delaney Kuster
DeLauro Langevin
DeBene Larsen (WA)
DeSaulnier Larson (CT)
Deutch Lawrence
Dingell Levin
Doggett Lewis
Dold Lieu (CA)
Doyle (PA) Lipinski
Edwards Loeb sack
Ellison Lowenthal
Engel Lowey
Eshoo Lujan Grisham
Esty (NM)
Farr Lujan, Ben Ray
Fattah (NM)
Foster Lynch
Frankel (FL) Maloney,
Fudge Carolyn
Gabbard Maloney, Sean
Gallego Matsui
Garamendi McCollum
Graham McDermott
Grayson McGovern
Green, Al McNerney
Green, Gene Meeks
Grijalva Meng
Hahn Moore
Hastings Moulton
Heck (WA) Murphy (FL)
Higgins Nadler
Himes Napolitano
Hinojosa Neal
Honda Nolan
Hoyer Norcross
Huffman O'Rourke
Israel Pallone
Kline Pascarell
Jackson Lee Payne
Jeffries Johnson (GA)
Sessions Johnson, E. B. Pelosi
Kaptur Perlmutter
Katko Peters
Keating Peterson
Kelly (IL) Pingree
Kennedy Pocan
Kildee Poliquin
Kilmer Polis
Price (NC) Price (NC)

NOT VOTING—8

Chu (CA) Lee
Duckworth Lofgren
Gutiérrez Nunnelee

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1705

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 through Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

Had I been present on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 49, and "nay" on roll call vote 50 against final passage of H.R. 351, the LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act.

Had I been present on Monday, February 2, 2015, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 51, "yea" on roll call vote 52, and "yea" on roll call vote 53.

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015 I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 54, "nay" on roll call vote 55, and "nay" on roll call vote 56. I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 57, and finally I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 58 in strong opposition to H.R. 596, the 56th vote to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today because of a serious illness in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call #57—Nay; Roll Call #58—Yea.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 203. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 77

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. Welch and Ms. Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico.

(2) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Perlmutter and Mr. Tonko.

(3) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Adams.

(4) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Mr. Walz and Mr. McNerney.

Mr. BECERRA (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCSALLY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members to the House Democracy Partnership:

Mr. ROSKAM, Illinois, Chairman
Mr. FORTENBERRY, Nebraska
Mr. BOUSTANY, Louisiana
Mr. CONAWAY, Texas
Mr. BUCHANAN, Florida

Mr. CRENSHAW, Florida
 Mrs. BROOKS, Indiana
 Mrs. BLACK, Tennessee
 Mr. RIBBLE, Wisconsin
 Mrs. WALORSKI, Indiana
 Mr. ZELDIN, New York

MIDDLE CLASS ECONOMICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, and Members, wow. There are actually people here in the audience and Members.

We have talked a lot about middle class economics, but why? Why is it important? Why did the President raise this issue in his State of the Union? What is this all about?

We are going to spend some time here today working our way through middle class economics, and some of my colleagues may join me, and I asked the Republicans, if they want to join, they could too.

It is okay, Madam Speaker, that they are not listening. But this is really an important issue.

So why is middle class economics important?

What is it all about?

It is really about driving the economy. If you want to create jobs in America, if you want to have economic growth in America, the middle class of America, the great middle class, the millions upon millions of men and women that are working families, they need to grow. And so middle class economics is all about growing the American economy, because that is where demand is created.

We often talk about the job creators, and businesses really create product and they create profit. But it is the middle class that actually creates the growth in the economy by creating the demand. So if we are able to grow the middle class, grow the paychecks, increase the vast number of Americans who are in the middle class, we will create the jobs. So that is why middle class economics is on our agenda.

□ 1715

There are other pieces of this. It leads to higher wages. So when you increase the middle class, you increase the higher wages, creating the demand.

So that is what this is all about. It is about opportunity. It is about growing the ability of the working families in America to make it, to have a shot at education, to have a shot at a home. So that is what we are going to talk about today in the next 46 minutes, about middle class economics. The President brought this issue to us. We are going to spend some time discussing this.

I notice that our fearless whip, STENY HOYER of Maryland, has joined us.

Mr. HOYER, please, let's get into this conversation.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The reason I wanted him to yield is because I want to thank him. I don't know that there is any Member of this body or, frankly, the other body who has spent more time talking with the American public to let them know how focused we are on making sure that Americans can Make It In America. And the middle class, of course, is critically important.

I will tell the gentleman from California, he and I have both traveled outside this country—I think I have been to probably 60 nations—and every nation has its rich people, and every nation has its poor people. America's genius and success was posited, however, on the broad middle class that we had, that made America. They are the ones whose work and intellect and creativity and innovative spirit and entrepreneurial energy made America what it is and what it has been.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) for the fidelity that he has shown over the years to this critically important objective of making sure that the middle class, working Americans have the ability to make it and to increase their standard of living over that of their parents. That has always been the genius of our country. It needs to continue to be. And the President, of course, has offered, as the gentleman points out, an agenda that is focused on working men and women in this country, making sure that they have the ability to live quality lives and have their children pursue education and do even better than their parents; and as they do so, their country, this great country of ours, will do better as well.

So I wanted to rise to thank the gentleman for his, as I say, fidelity to this objective, which is, after all, the critical agenda for our country.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you, Mr. HOYER. Nobody has been at this longer than you. You have been working in the Halls of Congress and across this Nation advocating for the middle class.

Both Democrats and Republicans now agree that the middle class in America has stalled out. They have not seen the increase in their paychecks. In fact, in the last couple of years, there has actually been a decrease on the average middle-American paycheck.

So what we are all about and what the President proposed to us in his State of the Union was middle class economics. And it is critically important, if we want to grow the jobs in this Nation, that we have got to pay attention to the middle class and how they can improve themselves, how they can have a higher standard of living, have greater paychecks. In doing so, we will grow this economy. We will be able to deal with the deficit. There are numerous ways in which this can be done.

We need to look for higher wages. Infrastructure is critically important. In the budget that the President just put

forth yesterday, there is a major advancement that he is proposing for infrastructure, a 6-year program, over \$600 billion in that 6-year period—\$673 billion building our roads, rebuilding our bridges, our ports, our communication systems. When you do that, you actually are going to grow the economy, and it is the middle class that will have those jobs.

So this is all about growing the middle class, otherwise known as middle class economics. That is what we are going to debate this year.

We are going to spend the next several months as we put together the budget first and then the appropriations and the various pieces of legislation—for example, reauthorizing the surface transportation program. We want to structure that. We, the Democrats, want to structure that in such a way that the principal benefits flow to the working families of America so that they can see greater wages, so that they can see greater opportunities. And there are many, many pieces to this puzzle that we need to pay attention to. So we want to grow American jobs.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) was here just a moment ago. And he has been talking about this theme of making it in America, which builds on the Buy America laws which have been in effect for more than 40 years. Our taxpayer money must be spent, should be spent on American-made equipment. We will come to this in a little more detail, but these are the fundamental parts of growing American jobs. You make things in America, whether that happens to be a movie or a new app for your iPhone or a train or a plane, whatever it happens to be. Make it in America; and use our taxpayer money to buy American-made equipment.

This one here: a well-educated workforce is fundamental to growing any economy, whether it be in Bangladesh or in the United States, the education of the workforce. If you have a well-educated workforce, your economy will grow.

America used to have the best education system in the world. We are not there anymore. We have fallen way off that power curve. We have got to establish America's position as having the best educated workforce in the entire world.

Now, the President, in his State of the Union and as part of the middle class economics, spoke to this issue when he talked about community colleges, all Americans being able to get 2 years of education at a community college, perhaps to pick up an AA degree or some skill set, and that it be free. What an important, important element that is in having a well-educated workforce. There are many, many other pieces to this educated workforce, and we will, over the next several weeks and months, be talking about this as we go forward.

Research and development. Well, I am from California, and I represent a